REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-9 are presently active; Claims 1, 7, and 9 having been presently amended. Claims 2 and 3 were previously canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 4-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1 and 4-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1-2, 4, and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,852,504) in view of Sekiguchi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,798,864). Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al and Sekiguchi further in view of Hashimoto (U.S. Pat. No. 5,515,183).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present clarified language addresses the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, issues and defines over the art of record. For instance, Claims 1 and 7 define three light-emitting diodes arranged on a two dimensional grid pattern. The two dimensional grid pattern for three light emitting diodes is shown in Applicant's Figures 9 and 10. One of ordinary skill in the art would know how to implement this arrangement without undue experimentation.

Popovich et al was applied in the final Office Action for its teaching in Figures 20a and 20b of color lights beams "illuminating different sections of the display surface." However, the arrangement in Popovich et al is that of a linear array of light sources 2002. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Popovich et al that the light sources 2002 are or would be arranged on a two dimensional grid pattern, as presently clarified.

Indeed, off setting one of the light sources from the array 2002 so as to place this array of light sources on a two-dimensional grid would result in the one displaced light source having an improper critical angle of reflection, see Figure 20b of Popovich et al, making this embodiment of Popovich et al unsuitable for its intended purpose.

Regarding the rejection to Claim 9, which similarly defines light emitting diodes on orthogonal axes, the outstanding Office Action asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the three color light sources in Kato "have to be in orthogonal direction arrangement in order for the collimated light from the light sources illuminate the display properly."

Yet, in all the arrangements shown in Kato for multiple color light sources (see Figures 35 and 36), the color light sources are arranged in a linear fashion. Indeed, light reflected to the observer depends on a proper reflection angle from half mirrors 200, 220, and 222. Displaying one mirror to be offset from the linear array would result in an incorrect angular reflection to the observer for this mirror, making this embodiment of Kato et al unsuitable for its intended purpose.

Hence independent claims 1 and 7 (and the claims dependent therefrom) are believed to patentably defined over the references of record.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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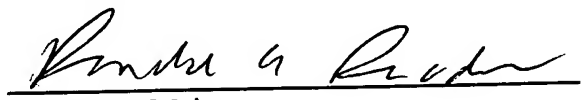

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